

BOB ALLEN • PAUL SCOTT

Oswald's Final Letter: How Did He Know?

WASHINGTON — Four years after the assassination of President Kennedy, the FBI is still investigating a mystery involving the contents of the last letter Lee Harvey Oswald wrote from the Dallas tragedy.

The correspondence, intercepted and read by the FBI before it arrived at its destination, was mailed to the Soviet Embassy here on November 12, 1963 — or 10 days before the assassination.

Written as a request for a Soviet visa, the letter contained a paragraph referring to the highly secret recall of a Cuban official in the Mexico City embassy days after Oswald had visited there and returned to Dallas.

The baffling question the FBI is still trying to answer is:

How did Oswald learn about this official's unannounced recall?

The FBI has concluded the information would have had to come to Oswald from one of three sources:

(1) An informant in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City who contacted Oswald after he returned to the U.S. (2) the Central Intelligence Agency, or (3) the KGB, the Soviet Secret Police.

Significantly, the FBI inquiry ascertained the CIA and KGB operations in Mexico City learned of the official's recall at approximately the same time and only a week before Oswald wrote his letter, containing the following paragraph: "Of course the Soviet Embassy was not at fault, they were, as I say, unprepared, the Cuban Consul was guilty of a gross breach of regulations. I am glad so has since been repaired."

OSWALD'S INFORMATION

November. We do not know who might have told Oswald that Azquez was to be replaced."

After receiving this reply from the CIA, the Warren Commission's staff made no further inquiry on the Azquez reference, but centered their probe on the circumstances under which the letter was prepared and later discovered.

The commission's inquiry into the Oswald letter, most details of which were buried in the 2 volumes of testimony, revealed that Mrs. Ruth Paine, on whose typewriter the final draft was made, and Marina Oswald, known for the letter and its contents before it was mailed.

Mrs. Paine testified Oswald typed the letter while spending the November 9 weekend at her residence with his wife. After observing the letter when Oswald was not around, Mrs. Paine said she copied it. The commission's record shows she turned the copy over to the FBI on November 20, the day after the assassination.

LETTER INTERCEPTED

An FBI report on file in the National Archives, which has been recently declassified, notes that the agency received its investigation information on intercepted Oswald's letter after it was mailed on November 12 in Irving, Tex.

At the time, the FBI agents involved in the intercept copied the text of the letter and put it in Oswald's Washington file with a note that one paragraph verified earlier information on Oswald's Mexico City visit.

The note pointed out that Oswald's mention of "Comrade Azquez" in the letter confirmed a CIA report that the Soviet Secret Police had replaced the

Four Years After—

Part Two: The Warren Commission's New Study

By DON BACON

(The Times Herald editorial staff)

WASHINGTON — Just four years ago, an assassin—or were there more than one?—took the life of President John F. Kennedy.

This week, as sort of an anniversary gesture, the Saturday Evening Post is featuring on its cover a ghostly picture of the late President together with a story inside that purports to be "a major new study" revealing that "three assassins killed Kennedy."

The article, says Post editor William A. Emerson Jr., "demolishes the Warren Report," which was issued by the government 10 months after the Dallas tragedy of Nov. 22, 1963, and which named a distraught, left-wing loner, Lee Harvey Oswald, as the sole assassin.

But does the Post expose "demolish" the Warren Report? Have any of the widely publicized criticisms that have come directed against the Warren Report during the last two years really destroyed its basic conclusions?

ANSWER 'NO'

The answer, to one who has followed the official investigation from the beginning, is that who has attempted to demolish what has been said must be a qualified one.

The report has survived the ordeal the stark story has undergone of independent investigators. It has been challenged, to be sure, but it remains still afloat.

It still offers the least complex and most credible explanation of what happened in the afternoon as the president's motorcade made a sharp left turn onto Elm St. and drove past the Texas School Depository.

The answer, or explanation, is that the Warren Commission's report is still the best explanation of what happened.

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